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JAMES L. BRULTE
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER
SENATOR, THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT

June 14, 2001

Honorable Gray Davis
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Davis:

Of Budgets, Priorities, and Poesy

Inspire us, O Governor, to understand – nay, to accept
A government expenditure that our Caucuses find inept.
The Resources Agency spending \$15K on a “Series” of verse
How do you rationalize it? – It seems perverse.

From the Secretary to the Analyst to the lowliest Clerk
Ms. Nichols insists that poets inspire us “to do our work”
(Satisfaction, a paycheck and a sincere “thanks for a job well done” –
Isn’t that adequate for most everyone?)

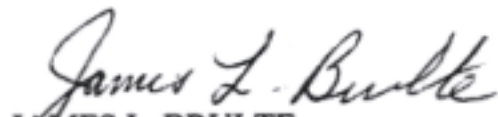
“I used to read and write poetry,” quoth Mary, who recently found
That her job and that of the poet are intimately bound.
“I needed something to reconnect with the more poetic side,”
But should it come out of the public’s hide?

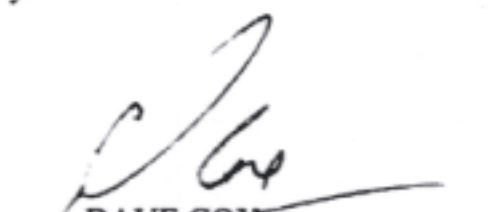
“We are working with the same element: the landscape” she said –
Yet how many \$2 billion agencies by poets are led?
Resources oversees earthquakes, floods, conservation and fire
The poet’s palate? Words and thoughts – nothing so dire.

However inspiring – a personal epiphany it may well be
It is one that California workers just don’t see
As we cut funding for teachers, students, and the night shift nurse
Why does the Administration choose to invest in verse?

From the taxpayer you'll never hear, "Isn't that rosy,
Coffee, camaraderie, and state-paid poesy."
Knowing this we ask (tongue-in-cheek, by golly!)
That your Administration never repeat this folly.

Sincerely,


JAMES L. BRULTE
Senate Republican Leader


DAVE COX
Assembly Republican Leader